JAN. 14-15, 2005

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

# Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on January 14 and 15. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

## President's Report

The President updated the Provincial Executive on his activities since the last meeting. He has continued visiting schools across the province as part of the school visitation program and has attended numerous meetings and appointments in his capacity as President. In early January he presented the NLTA brief to the pre-budget consultation hearings held in St. John's and followed up with media interviews re the presentation.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.

## Business from Standing Committees

*Table Officers*

- The Electoral Committee for the election of the Provincial Executive Council at BGM 2005 will consist of Doreen Noseworthy (Chair), Ken Kavanagh, and Debra Sparkes-Mercer.
- The theme for BGM 2005 will be "It's About Time – Let Teachers Teach!"
- The general schedule of four Executive meetings in a Convention year (exclusive of the pre-BGM meeting) and five in a non-BGM year was approved. Specific dates will be recommended annually by Table Officers for Executive approval, with specific meetings to be called when and if necessary.
- The NLTA will provide a donation of $2,000 through the Canadian Teachers' Federation to the Education International Tsunami Relief Fund.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

*Finance and Property Committee*

- The draft NLTA budgets for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were accepted for presentation at Joint Council. The following are some of the major recommendations contained in the draft budget:
  - A proposal for a by-law amendment will be presented to BGM 2005 to increase NLTA fees from 1% to 1.1% of salary, including bonuses.
  - The site of BGM 2007 will be in a hotel other than the Delta or Fairmont.
  - The President's Banquet at the 2005 BGM will be cancelled. The President's Banquet will be discontinued for BGM 2007.
  - The school representative seminars for 2006-07 will be cancelled.
  - For the 2005-06 year, $85,000 will be allocated from the Centennial Trust Fund to the General Fund to help offset the cost of the Virtual Teacher Centre. The Virtual Teacher Centre will continue to seek additional funding from outside partnerships and such funding will be matched each year by the Association to a maximum of $70,000 to be allocated from the Centennial Trust Fund.
  - Table Officers will be asked to investigate the possibility of eliminating staff through attrition when staff at NLTA retire or resign.
  - Table Officers will be asked to investigate the possibility of merging the Provincial Collective Agreement with the Labrador West Collective Agreement.
  - The budgeted amount from the External Imaging Program each year will be taken from the Emergency Fund with the provision that the television ads focus on enhancing the image of teachers in preparation for the next round of bargaining.
  - The amount budgeted for the Special Interest Council Program budgets will be reduced to $55,000 each year.
- As part of the process of preparing the NLTA budgets for 2005-06 and 2006-07, Executive will also recommend the following policy changes to BGM 2005:
  - Effective September 1, 2005, in a BGM year, the number of regular Joint Council meetings will be reduced from two to one.
  - The policy of sending paid alternates to BGM will be discontinued as of BGM 2007.
  - The Association's kilometre policy will be amended, effective September 1, 2005, to state that NLTA members will be paid a kilometre rate equal to 40% of gas costs on the island portion of the province, to be calculated quarterly. [Currently the rate is 49%.]
- The Association's Auditor's Report for the year ending August 31, 2004 was accepted for presentation to the 2005 BGM.

*(see over)*

For further information contact Edward Moore, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

*Professional Issues in Teaching Committee*

- Two additional seats will be requested at CONTACT 2005 for Francophone teachers who would apply to PITCOM for delegate selection.

For further information contact Dana Burridge, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park/René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

*Equity Issues in Education Committee*

- There will be one deadline of October 31 for the NLTA Equity Issues Program for students. Applications for all projects for the current school year will be considered after that deadline.
- There will be a special session for delegates at the 2005 BGM to take place concurrently with the SIC session, to discuss the representation of women leaders within the organization and to assist female delegates in taking a more active role in the democratic processes of BGM.

For further information contact Fred Wood, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

*Membership Benefits and Services Committee*

- The following are the members of the School Board-Teacher Liaison Committees for the 2004-06 term of office:

  **Western:** Jeff Blundon, Appalachia Branch; Aiden Chaytor, Humber Branch (Chair); Terry Casey, Northern Light Branch; David Clarke, Port aux Basques Branch; Wayne Park, Table Mountain Branch

  **Nova Central:** Rick Duffy, Exploits Valley Branch (Chair); Ron Dawe, Ganova Branch; Tim Howse, Green Bay Branch; Wade Verge, Notre Dame Branch; Gail Jarvis, Seagaulher Branch

  **Eastern (Committee 1):** Kevin Glavine, Burin-Marystown Branch; Lloyd Collins, Clarenbridge Branch; Jeanne Williams, Landfall Branch; Jackie Maloney, Rushoon-Terrenceville Branch (Chair)

  **Eastern (Committee 2):** Fred Driscoll, Baccalieu Branch (Chair); Dolly Brace, Conception Bay South Branch; Linda Crocker, Marconi Branch; Gabriel Ryan, Upper Trinity South Branch; Harold Mullowney, Waterford Valley Branch

For further information contact Sean Noah, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

*Communications/Political Action Committee*

- The Honorary Chairperson for Education Week 2005 will be Dr. Alice Collins, Dean of the Faculty of Education at MUN.

For further information contact Marilyn Bennett, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

## Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association priorities for 2004-05 was presented to Executive. Various NLTA administrative staff updated Executive on the objectives, time frames and action updates. The five priorities are: negotiating a collective agreement; teacher accountability/assessment/professionalism; curriculum issues; quality of teachers' work life; and membership awareness.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Council Restructuring

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Council Restructuring took place in St. John's in early January. The committee has the mandate to develop new policies, procedures, by-laws and implementation strategy to enact the motion from Provincial Executive to change the SIC structure to establish three councils: Primary/Elementary, Intermediate, and High School, while allowing for the continued existence of certain specialized councils. Updates on the work of the committee will be provided to Provincial Executive at regular meetings.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Council Restructuring, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

## Ad Hoc Committee on School Administrators

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on School Administrators took place in St. John's in early December. The mandate of the committee is to study and make recommendations to the Provincial Executive regarding the structure and role of a School Administrators Council within the NLTA, representatives of school administrators within the NLTA, and NLTA services to school administrators and the delivery of those services. Updates on the work of the committee will be provided to Provincial Executive at regular meetings.

For further information contact Sean Noah, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on School Administrators,

Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

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## Teacher Certification

After a long period of inactivity the Provincial Teacher Certification Committee met in early January. With new representatives from the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Memorial University, and NLTA, much of the meeting was spent reviewing the legislation and regulations governing the committee. In addition to these discussions, a number of individual cases were brought to the attention of the committee by the Registrar of Teacher Certification for review and advice. There was a commitment by the representatives in attendance to continue the regulations review that was begun three years ago. A further meeting is scheduled for mid February.

For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

## Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee met on several occasions to review and discuss interpretation of guidelines in the Policy on Election of the President and Vice-President. The minutes from the committee meetings were provided to Provincial Executive for their information.

For further information contact Doreen Noseworthy, Chair, Electoral Committee, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Collective Bargaining

Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive will spend time at the February Joint Council meeting, working in small groups, to determine what changes, if any, need to be made in the direction taken with the NLTA opening package. Among these discussions will be the issues of membership priorities, difficulties caused by the new board structure, negotiating strategy and membership concerns.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

## Other Business

- The Report on Resolutions from the 2003 BGM was accepted for presentation to the 2005 BGM.

  For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- The NLTA will begin talks with the Minister of Education to change the opening day of schools to the first working day of September.

  For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- The motion that the NLTA formally call for the suspension of the implementation of the new Career Development course in the revised high school curriculum until a thorough examination of teachers' role and responsibility, especially as it relates to the community service component, has taken place, was referred to the Curriculum Committee.

  For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

- The policies on the various Association funds, i.e. Emergency Fund, Reserve Fund, etc., will be provided to delegates at the Biennial Convention.

  For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director, or Jim Fox, Treasurer.

- Further meetings will take place in early February with representatives from the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association concerning the NLSBA grievance on student assistant duties during a job action.

  For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow-up or future direction: Labrador Benefits Agreement, high school curriculum; Virtual Teacher Centre; opening and closing dates of school; and school development.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **February 17** and will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on **February 18 and 19** in St. John's.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.